

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 111518Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7941

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

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VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR; GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE;
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SUBJ: NORWEGIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS: FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FOR
STEADY, BUT CAUTIOUS, IMPROVEMENTS

BEGIN SUMMARY. NORWAY WANTS AN IMPROVEMENT IN
RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION--;BUT AT A CAUTIOUS,
ONE STEP AT A TIME, PACE WHICH ANY SMALL COUNTRY
MUST OBSERVE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH A SUPER-POWER
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NEIGHBOR. THIS WAS THE THESIS OF NORWEGIAN FOREIGN

MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND'S REMARKS AT A CEREMONY
LAST WEEK COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET-NORWEGIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. FRYDENLUND SPOKE AT A MARCH 7 MEETING OF THE NORWAY-
SOVIET UNION SOCIETY, WHICH WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY ROVING
SOVIET AMBASSADOR VALERIAN ZORIN AND RSFSR FOREIGN
MINISTER TITOV. AFTER THE TRADITIONAL REFERENCE TO
SOVIET LIBERATION OF EAST FINNMARK IN 1944 AND TO THE
FACT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN NORWAY AND RUSSIA HAVE
NEVER BEEN INTERRUPTED BY WAR, FRYDENLUND STATED
THAT IT HAS BEEN NORWEGIAN POLICY, DESPITE CHANGING
GOVERNMENTS, TO WORK FOR A GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE SOVIET UNION. NORWAY WISHES TO DEVELOP THIS
RELATIONSHIP FURTHER THROUGH MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPER-
ATION, AND PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI'S FORTHCOMING VISIT
TO MOSCOW WILL, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID, "MARK AN
INCREASED ACTIVITY IN THE COOPERATION BETWEEN NORWAY
AND THE SOVIET UNION IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS." BUT
FRYDENLUND THEN STRUCK A CAUTIONARY NOTE. POINTING TO
THE VAST DIFFERENCE IN SIZE OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, HE
SAID THAT MOSCOW MUST CONSIDER THE SPECIAL SITUATION
WHICH A SMALL COUNTRY FINDS ITSELF IN, AS A NEIGHBOR TO
A GREAT POWER. ANY NORWEGIAN RETICENCE TOWARD EVEN
CLOSER COOPERATION IS DUE NOT TO LACK OF INTEREST IN
EXPANDING NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS, BUT TO LIMITED RESOURCES
AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO THE "PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR."

2. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE KEY PASSAGES OF FRYDENLUND'S
SPEECH FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

"FOR ANY SMALL STATE WHICH IS THE NEIGHBOR OF A
GREAT POWER, THE THOUGHT OF AND CONSIDERATION FOR
THE NEIGHBORLY RELATIONSHIP WILL ALWAYS PLAY AN
IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS FOREIGN
POLICY. THIS IS TRUE ALSO FOR NORWAY'S RELATIONS'
WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IT HAS BEEN A CONSISTENT
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NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY--INDEPENDENT OF CHANGING
GOVERNMENTS--TO WORK FOR GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS
WITH THE SOVIET UNION. WE WISH TO DEVELOP THIS
RELATIONSHIP FURTHER THROUGH MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL
COOPERATION. LATER THIS MONTH PRIME MINISTER
BRATTELI WILL VISIT THE SOVIET UNION. IT IS A
RETURN VISIT FOR PRIME MINISTER KOSYGIN'S VISIT
TO NORWAY IN 1971. PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI'S COMING

VISIT WILL MARK AN INCREASED ACTIVITY IN THE COOPERATION BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE SOVIET UNION IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS. BOTH COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN THIS COOPERATION. ALSO, IT IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. BUT SINCE WE NOW FACE AN EXPANSION OF CLOSER CONTACTS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, THERE IS ONE CIRCUMSTANCE I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION, ONE WHICH NATURALLY OCCUPIES MY INTEREST AS A FOREIGN MINISTER.

THAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN DIMENSIONS BETWEEN A COUNTRY OF FOUR MILLION PEOPLE AND ONE WITH 250 MILLION. I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK OPENLY AND HONESTLY TO OUR BIG NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST. ANY RESERVE SHOWN BY NORWAY TOWARD CLOSER COOPERATION IN ONE FIELD OR ANOTHER MUST NOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO A LACK OF INTEREST IN CONTINUING TO DEVELOP GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS. RATHER, IT IS AN EXPRESSION OF CAUTION THAT ANY SMALL COUNTRY MUST NATURALLY IMPOSE ON ITSELF WHEN COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH A NEIGHBORING GREAT POWER. THIS IS DUE IN PART TO OUR COUNTRY'S LIMITED RESOURCES. BUT FAR MORE IMPORTANT IS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR. WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT EACH RUNG ON THE LADDER CAN HOLD US BEFORE WE TAKE THE NEXT.

IN THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, THE SOVIET UNION MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE SPECIAL SITUATION IN WHICH A SMALL COUNTRY FINDS ITSELF AS A NEIGHBOR OF A GREAT POWER. WE MUST ON OUR SIDE CONSIDER THE FACT THAT THE U.S. IS A BIG POWER WITH A BIG RESPONSIBILITY.

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POWER'S INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE FIELD OF SECURITY POLICY. NORWAY HAS SOUGHT TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT THROUGH THE RESTRICTIONS WHICH WE HAVE IMPOSED ON OURSELVES IN OUR SECURITY POLICY, AND THROUGH OUR BASE POLICY. NORWEGIAN SECURITY POLICY IS TODAY A PART OF THE BALANCE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST, AND ALSO OF THE NORDIC SECURITY-POLITICAL BALANCE. THIS POLICY REMAINS UNCHANGED."

END TEXT.

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